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Their findings are not to be varied so as to increase the amount of the tax payable by the company without giving it an opportunity to be heard.

Each year, after deducting \$30,000, there is to be set apart from the consolidated revenue fund a sum equal to one-half of the amount received in taxes by the province from the railroads. This sum is to be credited to the cities, towns, incorporated villages and organized townships in Ontario in proportion to their population as compared with the whole population of the province as shown by the last preceding Dominion census.

ROBERT ARGYLL CAMPBELL.

Minimum Wage Act—New South Wales. The minimum wage act of New South Wales came into force January 1, 1909. The act applies to factories, warehouses, shops, bakehouses, laundries, and dye-works.

Provision is made that "no workman or shop-assistant shall be employed unless in the receipt of a weekly wage of at least four shillings, irrespective of any amount earned as overtime." Overtime for a workman means more than 48 hours of work in any week, or work after six o'clock in the evening on any working day. Overtime for a shop assistant means more than a half-hour's work after the closing time of the shop in terms of the early-closing acts. The minimum pay for overtime for boys under sixteen or for women is placed at not less than three-pence for every hour or portion of an hour; but employers may secure exemption from this requirement, as regards boys under sixteen, where the exigencies of any trade or any employment warrant such exemption. An employer must also pay any boy under sixteen or any woman whom he requires to work overtime on any day not less than sixpence as tea money.

As a further protection against the sweating trades, the law prohibits the payment of any "consideration, premium, or bonus" to any person "for the engaging or employing by him of any female in preparing, working at, dealing with, or manufacturing articles of clothing or wearing apparel for trade or sale."

The act does not apply where all the persons employed as workmen or shop assistants, are members of the employer's family, related in the first or second degree by blood or first degree by marriage.

Definite provision is made for the enforcement of the law. Employers are required to keep records in prescribed form, the duties and powers of factory inspectors are boadened, specific penalties are prescribed for the

several classes of violations, and the duties of magistrates with reference to the enforcement of the act are clearly defined.

Workmen's Pensions—France. After nearly two years' consideration a committee of the French senate has decided that the workmen's pensions bill passed by the chamber of deputies was impracticable and has proposed a new bill which provides for a pension fund to be maintained by contributions from employers and from the state. Under the proposed system employers would be required to pay 9 francs annually for every employee over 18 years of age and 4½ francs for every employee under 18. Members of the working class would be entitled to a pension amounting to 120 francs upon reaching the age of 65.

The bill also makes provision for an old age pension system to be maintained by monthly payments on the part of the interested parties. The payments required amount to 3 francs annually for persons between 15 and 18 years of age and 6 francs annually for those above 18.